

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /120 W
-----058983 180407Z /13

O 171530Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8956

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION UN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, LT

SUBJECT: UN SYMPOSIUM IN MASERU, JULY 17-21, 1978

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SYMPOSIUM ON EXPLOITATION OF BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA AND PRISON CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA OPENED WITH MODERATE PRESENTATIONS BUT EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT MAY EVOLVE INTO A FREE-SWINGING DEBATE LED BY MILITANTS AND RADICALS. END SUMMARY.

2. SYMPOSIUM OPENED WITH MODERATE SPEECH BY PRIMIN JONATHAN. OF THE FOUR STATEMENTS MADE BY REPS OF SYGEN, COMMITTEE OF FOUR, AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS AND COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID, ONLY STATEMENT OF THE LATTER COMMITTEE WAS CONTENTIOUS IN DENOUNCING "WESTERN TRIPLE VETO" OF MANDATORY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IN SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. PRESENT ARE PARTICIPANTS FROM US, UK, USSR, FRG, TANZANIA, LESOTHO, KENYA ZAIRE, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, INDIA, UPPER VOLTA, SENEGAL, NIGERIA, IVORY COAST AND USA AS WELL AS FORMER SOUTH
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AFRICAN DETAINEES, LIBERATION GROUPS (INCLUDING PLO, PAC, ANC) AND ORGANIZATION REPS. NEITHER CUBANS NOR JAMAICANS HAVE SHOWN UP. FRENCH WITHDREW THEIR PARTICIPATION.

4. GOL MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY M.V. MOLAPO UNANIMOUSLY CHOSEN CHAIRMAN. SANON (SYG REPRESENTATIVE) OFFERED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS (US, UK, FRG, OLLAND, SWEDEN) OPPORTUNITY TO NAME

RAPPORTEUR "TO LEND CREDENCE TO THE FINAL REPORT AND TURN A NEW PAGE". WESTERN GROUP AGREED ON SWEDISH PARTICIPANT ONLY TO FIND THAT SANON, THINKING WESTERN GROUP WAS DISINCLINED TO ACCEPT, HAD INVITED INDIA REP TO ACT AS RAPPORTEUR.

5. SANON SAYS THERE WILL BE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN FINAL REPORT. HE HAS PRIVATELY ASKED WESTERN GROUP FOR UNDERSTANDING OF POSITIONS LIKELY TO BE EXPRESSED BY FORMER DETAINEES, PAC, ANC, PLO ALL OF WHOM ARE REPRESENTED. HE SAYS REPORT WILL BE PLACED BEFORE UN FOR CONSIDERATION. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT SEEMS TO US THAT SANON IS PERHAPS TRYING TO USE THIS SMALL, LOW-LEVEL GATHERING FOR A SYMPOSIUM TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE IN OTHER FORA. HE SAYS THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH TALK AND WE NOW NEED ACTION, WHICH HARDLY SOUNDS LIKE A SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM.

6. EXPECT QUESTION OF MANDATORY SANCTIONS AND POSSIBLY OTHER CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS TO ARISE BEFORE WEEK IS OUT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE TEXT OF REPLY TO USE IF MANDATORY SANCTIONS ARE AMONG RECOMMENDATIONS. ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE POSITION ON PRIVATE CORPORATION PRACTICES IN SOUTH AFRICA, U.S. POSITION ON PROPOSALS TO WITHDRAW U.S. INVESTMENTS, ETC.

7. STONEY COOKS NOW IN JOHANNESBURG. HE AND AMBASSADOR NORLAND ARRIVING MASERU TUESDAY MORNING.

8. TUESDAY, JULY 18, SIMON MANDELA'S SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY, WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARKED BY SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSION OF ITEM 3, CONDITIONS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SPECIAL CASE OF ROBBER ISLAND.

9. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN STARTED SYMPOSIUM OFF IN A MODERATE DIRECTION. SANON SAYD SYMPOSIUM IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE CONDEMNATORY. HE PLEADED WITH WEST FOR MODERATION BY WHICH HE SEEMS TO MEAN TOLERATION OF VIEWS OF MILITANTS. BRITISH AND FRG PARTICIPANTS ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT SYMPOSIUM MAY DETERIORATE INTO POLITICAL HASSLE ESPECIALLY OVER RECOMMENDATIONS. UK PARTICIPANT CHARGE BELIEVE WE WILL NOT NEED TO SPEAK EXCEPT POSSIBLY ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN ECONOMIC SPHERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MASERU01527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-0037
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780753/aaaabsdr.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: faeb7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1987359
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN SYMPOSIUM IN MASERU, JULY 17-21, 1978
TAGS: OCON, LT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/faeb7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014